

February 10, 2003

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Local Boundary Commission
Local Boundary Commission

To Whom It May Concern:

The Wrangell School Board and the City of Wrangell lobbied on behalf of the following statements to the Alaska Legislature in February 2003:

Voluntary incorporation of a unified municipality is preferable to the potential alternative of having a different borough government imposed upon residents by the state or leaving regions in the unorganized borough.

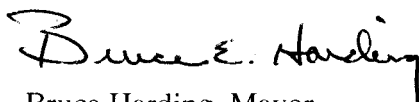
The framers of the Alaska constitutional provisions for boroughs clearly envisioned that single community boroughs might be formed; the legislature, in enacting standards for boroughs, did not require two communities; and several single-community boroughs are now in existence and are effectively delivering services. Whatever sense might be made for imposing such a multiple community presumption upon a broader, regional-type borough, the Local Boundary Commission should examine the merits of relaxing the presumption when reviewing a proposal to form a unified municipality – a sub-species of borough traditionally associated with a dominant urban center. A unified municipality would run at cross-purpose with the constitutional goal of encouraging creation of boroughs. Additionally, the Alaska constitution clearly provides for a minimum of local government units and prevention of multiple tax levying jurisdictions.

Requested Action:

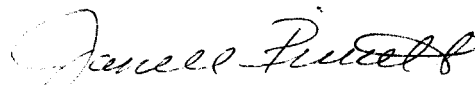
Amend AS 29.05.060 to permit home rule and first class cities to initiate borough or unified municipalities without requiring the signatures provided for in subsection (7)(a) and (7)(b).

School Board President Janell Privett read this statement into the record on Saturday, February 8 at 2:00 p.m. during the teleconference regarding Unorganized Borough Review hosted by the Local Boundary Commission. She also included support of home rule and first class municipalities to form single site boroughs (unified municipalities). In addition, she stated opposition to Model Borough Formation as indicated by the Local Boundary Commission.

Sincerely,



Bruce Harding, Mayor
City of Wrangell



Janell Privett, School Board President
Wrangell Public School Board



**WRANGELL
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
DISTRICT OFFICE**

GATEWAY TO THE STIKINE

P.O. BOX 2319
WRANGELL, ALASKA 99929
Telephone (907) 874-2347
Fax # (907) 874-3137

Resolution 03-03

**A Resolution of the Wrangell Public School Board Supporting Home Rule
and First Class Municipalities to Form Single Site Boroughs**

Whereas, the framers of the Alaska constitutional provisions for boroughs clearly envisioned that single community boroughs might be formed; and

Whereas, the legislature, in enacting standards for boroughs, did not require two communities; and

Whereas, several single-site community boroughs are now in existence and are effectively delivering services; and

Whereas, the Alaska constitution clearly provides for a minimum of local government units and prevention of multiple tax levying jurisdictions;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Wrangell Public Schools supports and encourages the legislature to amend AS 29.05.060 to permit home rule and first class cities to initiate borough or unified municipalities without requiring the signatures provided for in subsection (7)(a) and (7)(b).

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Wrangell Public Schools is strongly opposed to the recommended model borough boundary area of Wrangell-Petersburg for the following reasons:

1. The City of Wrangell is willing to expand its boundaries to include those adjacent areas for administration of land use regulations.

2. The residents of the Incorporated City of Wrangell currently pays the highest rate of sales tax of any Community in Alaska, of which 24% goes to support schools. The City of Wrangell has a mill rate of 10 mils and 36% collected by the City goes to support schools, including 95% of all timber receipts received by the Federal Government. In 2003 the City of Wrangell will contribute more than \$1,332,152 (which is slightly more than the maximum allowed by the Department of Education) to Wrangell Public Schools and amounts to \$577 (based on their population figures) annually for every man/woman/child in our Community. This does not include the several bond issues passed over the last few years to support our schools.
3. An additional layer of government imposed by a Wrangell-Petersburg Borough would add an additional burden of cost to its citizens. These costs would not result in better service nor reduced costs to the taxpayer or to the State of Alaska.

**ENACTED THIS 10th DAY OF February, 2003.
Wrangell, Alaska**

Janell R. Privett
School Board President

2-11-03
Date

Pamella McCloskey
School Board Secretary/Treasurer

2/12/03
Date

Wrangell School Board Members:

Tonnie Barlow
Georgianna Buhler
Rick Groshong
Pam McCloskey
Janell Privett

Susan J. Sciabbarrasi, Superintendent